



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

*Ueber epileptische Amnesie.* HERMANN HELMING. Inaug. Dis. Halle, 1883.

Dr. Helming has studied, with special reference to memory, a case of epileptic insanity. The patient had epileptic spasms occurring periodically, showed a suspicious and violent character during intervals of sanity, and in periods of insanity manifested characteristic symptoms of epilepsy, having sense hallucinations, great ideas, religious delirium, and the like. Yet, generally, for some time after attacks of insanity, the patient remembered all that had occurred, except what happened during the convulsions. Also in attacks of insanity he remembered the events of previous attacks. Hence the author concludes that defect of memory, which has been deemed a chief characteristic of epileptic insanity, cannot be relied upon. The ability to recollect what has occurred during an attack does not exclude the possibility of epilepsy. Instead of depending upon a single symptom, more stress should be laid upon the general character of the attack and the epileptic nature of the patient. This thesis contains a brief summary of theories of epileptic insanity, and to it is appended the usual bibliography. W. H. B.

*On the Dissolution of the Functions of the Nervous System in Insanity, with a Suggestion for a New Basis of Classification.* J. MACPHERSON. Am. Jour. Insanity, January, 1889.

Following Hughlings Jackson, the author looks upon the insanities of maturity as dissolutive. In general this dissolution is shown chiefly in one of the great fields of mental function, emotion, intellect or will, though more or less in all. Dissolution in the first results in melancholia and mania, in the second in the delusional insanities, in the third in insanities of the moral and impulsive kinds, and, since the power of origination depends on will, in dementia.

*Alcoholic Heredity.* Dr. F. LEUTZ, Medical Director Government Insane Asylum, at Tournai, Belgium. Quarterly Journal of Inebriety, April, 1888.

Dr. Leutz adds nothing new to our knowledge of alcoholic heredity, and his short paper is simply a review of the opinions brought forward by others, but the subject is of such universal importance that it may not be improper to note the two forms that alcoholic heredity assumes. The first is homologous heredity, or that of similitude; second, the heredity of transformation, or eccentric heredity. In the first form the progenitor gives to the descendant his tendency to alcohol, or symptoms of his alcoholism; in the second form, the alcoholized mental state of the progenitor becomes transformed into varied nervous disorders. No one denies the direct heredity, but there is but little agreement about the frequency of its transmission. The multifarious forms in which the second class appears, in irritability, instability, and a vicious moral disposition, need not be dwelt upon. W. N.

*Proceedings of the Congress of the National Prison Association of the United States, held at Boston, 1888.* Edited by the Secretary, FREDERICK HOWARD WINES, Springfield, Ill.

While the Proceedings are naturally and by right mostly taken up with questions of administration and of the improvement of

the criminal classes and the possibilities of their reform, there is one subject dealt with here that is of interest to the student of morbid psychology, the report on *The Registration of Criminals* (p. 73). "The new method of identifying prisoners, introduced into France by M. Alphonse Bertillon, and which is now successfully practiced not only in all the French prisons, but also in Russia, Japan, Spain, Italy, and some parts of Germany, has, within the past year, made quite a headway in the United States. It consists in the exact measurement of the prisoner on his arrival at the jail or prison. His height, the length and width of his head, the left foot, the outstretched arms, the trunk of the person seated, the four fingers of the left hand, the left arm, and the length of the ear are measured; and the color of the eyes and any particular marks are noted down; and a photograph of the prisoner is taken, both in profile and full-face view. It will be noticed that all the measurements mentioned are those of the bone dimensions of the human body after the body has attained its mature growth." The measurements thus obtained are catalogued and systematized in such a manner that it is possible to identify immediately, by reference to a central office, any person whose measurements have been recorded. The psychological interest of this new departure is that it promises some light on the existence or non-existence of the so-called criminal type. If such measurements are carried out systematically over a series of years and are then submitted to rigid investigation, the means would seem to be at hand for settling some of the questions raised by Lombroso and others of the new school of criminologists. The practical value of the method for gaining the result sought, the identification of criminals, has been abundantly proved in France, where about one hundred thousand cases are filed, and where they are used every day in furnishing information to the courts; no mistake has as yet occurred.

W. N.

*Verbrechensverübung im Traumwandeln.* Dr. HERMANN ORTLOFF.  
Gerichtlich-medizinische Fälle und Abhandlungen, Heft II,  
1888, pp. 35-64.

The author gives in readable fashion a case of alleged arson that came before him for investigation, in which the question of crime in sleep-walking held an important place. A fire broke out at night in a farmer's house, destroying a large part of its contents, including valuables belonging to his wife. Suspicion fastened on the wife herself, chiefly on the testimony of the maid-servant, who asserted that her mistress was eccentric, went about the house at night, and had brought fagots into the house just before the discovery of the fire. The place where the fire started made it quickly destructive to the property of the mistress, and for other reasons it seemed clear that if she set the fire she did so without consciousness. The assertions of the servant were, however, denied, and she herself was not above suspicion. The age of the mistress, 37, the slight nature of the nervous trouble from which she suffered, and the planfulness of the act were against the sleep-walking theory. The case was dismissed for lack of evidence, but the question remains, was it or was it not a sleep-walking crime?